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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

SHADOWMAN

Out of the Shadows

Some publishers play their hand early, but not Valiant Comics. They may have led off with some great titles, but they were holding a few more gems in reserve. This November, they're delivering one of their most eagerly anticipated relaunches in the form of *Justin Jordan & Patrick Zircher's* ***Shadowman.***

"Shadowman is one of the most popular characters in the history of the Valiant Universe," executive editor *Warren Simons* said. "While he's a character who knows his name is Jack Boniface, who he is and where he comes from are actually at the core of the story that *Patrick Zircher* and *Justin Jordan* are telling."

Cowriter *Justin Jordan* explained that "Jack Boniface becomes the new Shadowman, the person protecting New Orleans from the things that go bump in the night. Which would be great, if the on the job training weren't of the 'succeed-or-die' type."

"Shadowman is bound to a supernatural spirit and uses the power he receives from the spirit to protect the Valiant Universe from other supernatural beings," cowriter and illustrator *Patrick Zircher* added. "Jack Boniface is the last in a line of Shadowmen that goes back hundreds of years. Our stories are a combination of action, horror, and intrigue. We're detailing how Jack deals with the sudden changes to his personal world and the strange beings that have taken an interest in him."

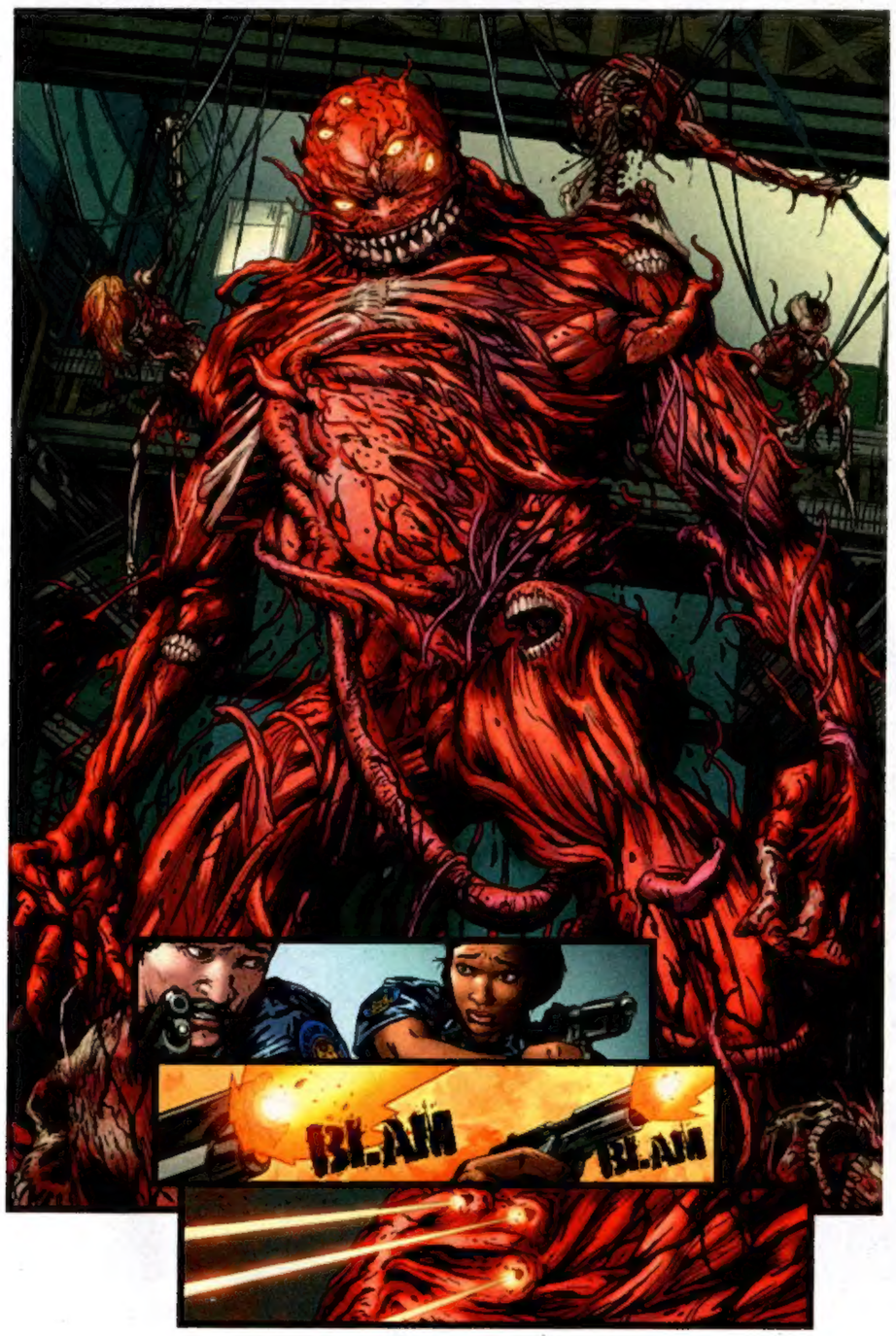
" As we'll see in the first issue, Jack's going to find out very quickly — and violently -- what it means to be a hero who guards one of the darker corners of the Valiant Universe," Simons added.

Did Jordan and Zircher have to spend time familiarizing themselves with the original ***Shadowman*** as they prepared their bible for the series, or did they just hit the high points? "Well, I'd read a lot of the original ***Shadowman***—albeit not in a decade or more—so I had a basis there," Jordan said. "I *did* go and read all I could find about the character and the world, but I avoided rereading the original issues, because there's a pretty good chance of me subconsciously apeing the ideas—or worse, for me, constantly comparing what I'm doing now with they did then. And that would be bad for my writerly insecurity."

"I've read about half the original series," Zircher said, "mostly the work the very talented *Bob Hall* did. In researching ***Shadowman***, I'm primarily concerned with concepts, recurring characters, and the like-- I want the 'voice' and style to be something Justin and I bring to the book.

"I had worked at Valiant back in the 90s and ***Shadowman*** caught my eye, but he just wasn't available to work on. ***Shadowman's*** always held my interest—and sometimes, if you just take your vitamins and live long enough..."

How much of the look of the original Shadowman is being retained, and how much is being redesigned? "We tried a lot of different designs," Zircher said, "but whenever I returned to something similar to the original costume, my excitement increased. I'm a full-blown fan of classic, heroic designs. I think of his new look as an evolution of his original costume, had it remained in circulation since its introduction.



"I'm a huge fan of characters who are kind of wrapped in the 'night.' In between my time on ***Hulk*** and ***Captain America*** at Marvel, I worked on ***Terror Inc.***, ***Mystery Men***, and before those ***Nightwing***, ***Batman***, and ***Vampirella***. I'm definitely feeling it!"

Is ***Shadowman*** the first Valiant series to explore the supernatural side of the Valiant Universe? "Yup," Jordan said. "Shadowman is a supernatural character who deals with, by and large, supernatural things, and this is a new part of the Valiant Universe. The trick there was to find a way of presenting it so that it works within the confines of the Valiant Universe. One of the things I'm proudest of about the book so far is that we came up with a way to have magic without violating the fundamental rules of the Valiant Universe as it's been established."

"The 'magic' of Shadowman will ultimately be a key pillar of how the Valiant Universe operates," Simons added. "Justin and Patrick spent an exorbitant amount of time working out a sophisticated, intelligent take on how the supernatural works in the Valiant Universe. Over the course of the book's first arc, we will see these threads develop and how they connect not only Jack, but the other forces at play in the universe."

What makes New Orleans the right setting for this series? "The food," Jordan joked. "No, wait, that's not it. Basically, New Orleans is a city with a very distinct personality to it. Louisiana, in general, is a pretty different sort of place. The culture there is its own, and even the way the legal system works is different. That's a lot of meat to chew on, writing-wise, so it seemed like it'd be a fun place to have him be.

"And really, I think being in New Orleans is pretty essential to the character. Not all characters need to be based in a certain place—I mean, Captain America doesn't need to work of NYC—but some pairing, like Batman and Gotham, are pretty fundamental, and I think that's the case with Shadowman.

"We may well have the character go places other than New Orleans—in fact, I'm sure we will—but the roots of the character, I think, *have* to be in New Orleans."

How far in advance have Jordan and Zircher planned Shadowman's saga—and do his adventures bring him into contact with any other Valiant characters? " The next arc is pretty thoroughly planned out, and we have a rough idea of the story beyond that," Jordan said. "I say *rough*, because while he have a pretty solid grasp of where Jack's story is taking him, we don't know the exact route he's going to take to get there, and we wanted to leave room to play with things we thought worked. I think I have good half dozen ideas for further arcs, so we've got a lot of material to play with sooner rather than later.

"On the other hand, it's going to be a little while before we see any of the other Valiant characters in the book. There will be references, absolutely, because they are inhabiting the same world—but since we're establishing a new corner of the Valiant Universe, we wanted to keep Jack a little separate from the other characters for the first arc or two."

Since ***Shadowman*** was one of Valiant's most popular characters, some readers were surprised that he wasn't a part of the initial launch. What was the reason for holding his return for a few months? "We are fortunate to be gifted with an incredible roster of characters," Simons said. "Since the day that we announced the Valiant relaunch, we've had people clamoring for the return of ***Shadowman***. We always knew he would be back, but it was just a matter of when.

"Ultimately, the 'Summer of Valiant' line-up of ***X-O Manowar***, ***Harbinger***, ***Bloodshot***, and ***Archer & Armstrong*** had such great chemistry, and we knew that Jack could stand on his own. Plus, we knew he had to come next when Justin and Patrick turned in an absolutely dynamite pitch."

Publisher *Fred Pierce* explained that Valiant has put a great deal of advance planning into developing a line that features a variety of genres. "The original Valiant Universe was brilliantly planned by *Jim Shooter, Bob Layton, Barry Windsor-Smith, Don Perlin,* and everyone else. There are so many aspects to the universe that we felt that it was important to get different perspectives from each of the books as they painted the new look and feel. It seemed that everything needed to start with ***X-O Manowar***—he's the signature character and brings a lot of the depth of Valiant characters to the table. ***Harbinger*** is a natural team book that allows the creators to explore the world of youth versus the powers that be today; ***Bloodshot*** is just a kick-ass book that allows the worlds of contemporary science to explode on the scene; and what could be better than an eternal like Armstrong and his unique perspective with a straight-laced fighter like Archer in showing the broad swath of where humanity has come and the dangers of what it might plunge into: All of the Valiant titles offer unique perspectives, but these four seemed a perfect way to start. And then there's Shadowman—dark powers, New Orleans, music... sounds perfect!"

Shadowman #1, a $3.99 comic by *Justin Jordan & Patrick Zircher,* is slated for November 7th release. Zircher has produced two covers for the first issue: a regular cover and a special pullbox blackout variant cover," continuing a program that Valiant created with the launch of ***X-O Manowar*** whereby they offer a special cover to those who advance-order the book at their local comic shop. There will also be a twenty-copy incentive variant cover by *Dave Johnson* and a special fifty-copy incentive by *Bill Sienkiewicz.*

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News*
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Snyder & Lee Steel Themselves for a New Superman Title in 2013

The big news of NYCC was the official announcement that writer *Scott Snyder* and illustrator *Jim Lee* (who, in case you forgot, is also the co-publisher of DC) will join forces in 2013 to launch a new Superman ongoing series—and while no name was announced, it is generally assumed that the series will be entitled ***Man of Steel,*** since it's a currently-unused Superman title *and* it's the name of the upcoming film.

Lee said that "I wanted a chance to work with Scott and do it on a character like Superman where we could see what he could come up with to show us what this character is about even s we've known him for 75 years."

"As a huge fan of Scott's writing, I'm looking forward to drawing Superman as much as I am reading Scott's story as it unfolds. Scott's crafted a truly epic yet personal story which will demonstrate without a doubt why Superman remains the most iconic hero of the modern age. 2013 is gonna absolutely rock!"

"I've loved Superman since I was a kid, and to be working on him now, with the great *Jim* Lee, is simply too thrilling for words. It's a dream come true for me on every front," Snyder said. "I don't want to give too much away, so I'll just say it's the Superman story I'd write if I only ever got one chance to write the character. It's an exploration of everything I love and am fascinated by about him. Like Court of Owls for Batman, it's a character piece for Clark—it's going to challenge him to his core. And it's definitely epic in scope, with huge action and drama - the biggest and most earth shaking action I've ever done. Can't wait to see what you all think of it. Couldn't be more grateful or excited to get the chance to make this one!"

Look for more news in upcoming issues of *CSN* regarding this major series launch.

CSNsider—from the halls of NYCC

A major comics convention is always a font of news and information, and mid-October's New York Comic-Con was no exception! Here are some of the highlights from the con's many announcements:

Dark Horse

•Slipknot vocalist *Corey Taylor* is writing an original comic, ***House of Golden Bones,*** for Dark Horse; it will be released in 2013 to coincide with Slipknot's upcoming album.

DARK HORSE COMICS CATALYST COMIX

•*Joe Casey* is reinventing Dark Horse's superhero line from the 1990s as a part of Catalyst Comix; Casey said that he would offer a more offbeat take on these characters. ""Bigger publishers will put *Paul Pope* on ***Batman Year One Hundred,*** but they will never put him on ***Batman***. Marvel did ***Strange Tales*** anthologies, probably my favorite Marvel comics in a decade. That's the approach I have to superheroes. Dark Horse have handed ***Titan, Amazing Grace, Agents Of Change*** to us to do this kind of comic book, a fresh take on superheroes that steps out of the house style…"

Casey will be joined by *Dan McDaid, Ulises Farinas,* and *Paul Maybury,* among other artists.

•Apparently Dark Horse likes comics by musicians: they also confirmed that *Gerard Way* would return to comics for ***Fabulous Killjoys,*** illustrated by *Becky Cloonan.* To make sure that the widest possible audience is aware of the title, Dark Horse will spotlight it in their ***Free Comic Book Day 2013*** release (hey, it worked with ***Umbrella Academy!...***).

•2013 will see the release of ***Mass Effect*** hardcover annotated editions with special notes by *Mac Walters.*

•*Jane Espenson's* ***Husbands*** web series comes to Dark Horse in January; the comedy focuses on two men who find themselves legally wed after a drunken Las Vegas weekend. Espenson and *Brad Bell* will cowrite the series, which features art by *Ron Chan, Natalie Nourigat, M.S. Corley, Ben Dewey, Tania Del Rio.*

•*Brian Wood & Carlos D'Anda* take readers back to the glory days of the *real* ***Star Wars*** in the monthly ongoing ***Star Wars*** series set in the days following the destruction of the Death Star. Luke, Han, Leia, Darth—they're all in here, as you'll see for yourself in January.

•In March, Dark Horse will offer ***The Unauthorized Tarzan HC,*** reprinting Charlton's unauthorized four-issue ***Jungle Tales of Tarzan*** series by *Joe Gill, Sam Glanzman, Bill Montes, & Ernie Bache.*

•Dark Horse has a comic tie-in for the upcoming videogame ***The Last of Us*** in the works, courtesy of *Neil Druckman & Faith Erin Hicks.* ***The Last of Us: American Dreams*** will focus on Ellie and her life prior to the game's events.

•*Rob Reger, Mariah Huehner, Emily Ivie* are prepering a brand-new full-color Emily the Strange miniseries, ***Emily and the Strangers.***

•*Vivek J. Tiwary, Andrew Robinson, & Kyle Baker* will chronicle the life of Beatles manager *Brian Epstein* in the upcoming graphic novel ***The Fifth Beatle;*** the graphic novel will also become a film written and directed by Tiwary—and it will be the first feature film about the band that will include Beatles recordings in its soundtrack.

DC

•January brings another quartet of New 52 Annuals (have you noticed yet that DC plans these Annual releases for months with five Wednesdays, so there are no New-52-less weeks?) with the release of ***Superboy Annual #1, Batman & Robin Annual #1, Green Lantern Corps Annual #1,*** and ***Green Lantern: New Guardians Annual #1.*** Of particular interest is ***Superboy Annual*** by *Tom DeFalco & Yvel Guichet,* which continues the H'el storyline: the cover of this issue shows Superboy wearing the Kryptonian armor that Superman has worn in the modern-day New 52, while the Man of Steel is back to his Superman T-shirt and jeans. The two ***Green Lantern*** annuals, meanwhile, continue the Third Army storyline with a Green Lantern betraying his fellow defenders in ***New Guardians Annual,*** while the story comes to a shocking end in ***Green Lantern Corps Annual,*** leading into the next major ***Green Lantern*** event.

•*Grant Morrison* said that his final three issues of ***Action Comics*** would reveal much more about Superman's history in the New 52 DCU. For example, did he die at the hands of Doomsday? ("Yes!" according to Morrison.) By the time Morrison departs the series in early 2013, readers will have a much clearer idea of the history of the Man of Steel in the DCU, setting the stage for the next phase.

•And it's been revealed that *Andy Diggle & Tony Daniel* comprise that next phase as they take over ***Action Comics*** after Morrison's departure. "I've always had a positive experience working with DC Comics, and it's amazing to be welcomed back into the fold in such fine style," Diggle said at DC's official blog The Source. "Even in an industry dominated by superheroes, Superman is *the* superhero—the original and best,and I'm flattered, daunted, and inspired in equal measure at being given the opportunity to build on such an incredible and historic legacy."

"I look forward to drawing each and every

SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
HI, MR. J.! YOUR TOP NEWS PHOTOG IS HERE!
HE IS?
QUICK, PARKER—GET OUT OF MY WAY!
HUH?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-15
SO WHERE IS HE?
I FIGURED HE WAS HIDING BEHIND YOU!
UGLE
A-D
P-H
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character in Superman's universe," Daniel said. "I anticipate this being a fun ride for me and hopefully for Superman fans as well. I can't wait to get Andy's first script and sharpening my pencils."

Diggle has confirmed that his run on ***Action Comics*** would be set in the present day New 52 DCU, marking a departure from Morrison's tales set in the early days of Superman's heroic career. Diggle also has plans for other iconic members of Superman's supporting cast—Lois Lane, Jimmy Olsen, and Perry White, as well as ***The Daily Planet***—but he won't be ignoring the recent ***Justice League*** revelation of a relationship between Superman and Wonder Woman.

•The events if ***Green Lantern: New Guardians Annual #1*** will also pave the way for the launch of a new series, ***Threshold,*** written by *Keith Giffen* and starring DC's science-fiction heroes and villains, alongside new characters and concepts. The first issue will feature two stories: "The Hunted," illustrated by *Tom Raney* that will feature the Omega Men, Blue Beetle, Star Hawkins, and a new Green Lantern named Jediah Caul; and "Larfleeze," a backup feature illustrated by *Scott Kolins*. Giffen said that the book would feature bits of the humor for which he has become so well known.

•*Ethan Van Sciver* has been tapped as artist on ***Batman: The Dark Knight*** beginning with January's #6; he'll join writer *Gregg Hurwitz* on the series. Current ***Dark Knight*** artist *David Finch* is moving to ***Justice League of America.***

•*Kevin Smith* is almost finished with the scripts for a sequel to ***Batman: The Widening Gyre;*** as was the case with the first series, *Walt Flanagan* is supplying the art.

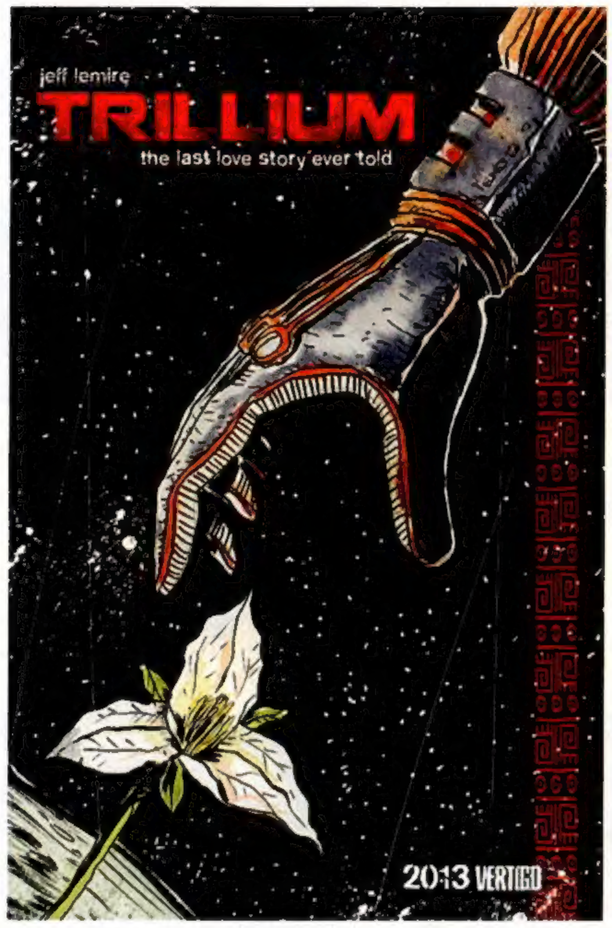
•*Paul Pelletier* has been confirmed as the new artist on ***Aquaman.***

•*Geoff Johns* announced the team lineup for the new ***Justice League of America*** series that he and *David Finch* will launch in 2013: Green Arrow, Martian Manhunter, Simon Baz Green Lantern, Catwoman, Katana, Stargirl, Hwkman, and Vibe. "This book will make Martian Manhunter the most dangerous hero in the DC Universe!" Johns said.

Vertigo/DC

•*Scott Snyder* is teaming with artist *Sean Murphy* on ***The Wake,*** a twelve-part miniseries that is described as "an underwater science-fiction epic like no other. Beneath the surface, set against the claustrophobic yet beautiful and sweeping ocean scapes, a disdcovery is made that will reveal a secret mythology."

"I couldn't be more excited about ***The Wake***!" Snyder said. "This is a story Sean and I have actually been developing together for more than a year, a big, twisted, sprawling science fiction and horror epic, all of which begins with a single, terrifying discovery at the bottom of the ocean. It's one of the most ambitious stories I've ever done, and there's no one I'd rather be creating it with than *Sean Murphy*..."



•Also forthcoming in 2013 is ***Trillium,*** a limited series written and illustrated by *Jeff Lemire*. At DC's The Source, Lemire said that "sci-fi is something I've wanted to tackle for a while. I experimented a bit with it last year when I did the ***Ultra the Multi-Alien*** short story for Vertigo's ***Strange Adventures*** anthology and enjoyed that project so much that I was eager to do more. I've also always wanted to do a really powerful, human love story.

"There have been so few love stories done really well in comics. ***Preacher*** and ***Blankets*** come to mind as recent successes, but in my mind, it's still a difficult and rather unexplored genre in the comics medium. It seemed like just the kind of challenge Mark was pushing me to undertake. So, I combined these two interests along with my ongoing fascination with in World War 1, and turn of the century exploration, and the results are ***Trillium***."

Lemire said that ***Trillium*** "will be my most ambitious creator-owned project and my most challenging. I think fans of my previous work will see traces of both ***Sweet Tooth*** and ***The Underwater Welder*** in its chemistry, but I really do want to push myself in new directions as well."

•*Scott Snyder & Rafael Albuquerque* announced that ***American Vampire*** would go on hiatus in 2013 so that the creative team could get ahead on the series *and* do some DC New 52 work. "#34 will be the last issue before we take a bit of a break," Snyder said—although Vertigo executive editor quickly assured fans that it would not be for a full year, and that there would be oneshots and ***American Vampire*** special issues to fill in the gaps. When ***American Vampire*** returns, the storyline will jump forward to the 1960s.

•In a story arc that begins in ***Unwritten #50,*** the characters of that book will find their way into the world of ***Fables.*** "It takes place entirely within ***The Unwritten,*** so it's not a crossover—it's an event!" ***Fables*** creator *Bill Willingham* said of the *Mike Carey* story arc.

•*Karen Berger* said that the upcoming ***Sandman*** prequel series by *Neil Gaiman & J.H. Williams III* would introduce the parents of the Endless.

Dynamite

•*Matt Wagner* has been tapped as writer of ***The Shadow: Year One,*** a 2013-release limited series that will present the definitive origin of the Shadow. ""The Shadow has long been one of my absolute favorite established characters, and I'm thrilled to finally get the chance to contribute to his continuing adventures," Wagner said. "I'm getting to help define The Shadow's mysterious origins in a ***Year One*** story arc! For all his published history in both the pulps and comics, as well as his radio adventures, there's surprisingly no depiction of his very first adventures as the dark-clad Master of Men..."

•***New York Times*** best-selling author *Peter Brett,* writer of last year's ***Red Sonja: Blue*** oneshot, returns to the character and the concept with the ***Red Sonja: Blue*** four-issue limited series that picks up where the oneshot left off. "The new series will add new depth to the character as she finds herself with blood on her hands that doesn't easily wash off, struggling with her inner demons even as a very real one pursues her," Brett said.

•Dynamite has acquired the license to the ***Grimm*** series, and will launch a line of ***Grimm*** comics in 2013. " The second they opened up the license for proposals, we offered an aggressive creative, financial, and marketing plan," publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "Fans of the TV show will enjoy what we have in store and how the comics will complement the TV series."

•*Matt Sturges* has been tapped to write a ***Damsels*** miniseries. "What ***Damsels*** does for dry land, this

HOW COME NO NEW PHOTOS, PARKER?
HEY, I GOT YOU GREAT PICS OF SPIDER-MAN AND CLOWN-9!
THAT WAS LAST WEEK! WHAT'VE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-16
I'LL GET YOU THE BEST PHOTOS YET—IN LAS VEGAS!
!
WHY SHOULD I SEND YOU TO LAS VEGAS?
BECAUSE KRAVEN THE HUNTER WILL DO A SHOW THERE.
AND WHERE KRAVEN SHOWS UP—
—CAN SPIDER-MAN BE FAR BEHIND?
I GET IT! I GET IT!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-17
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"*BEFORE WATCHMEN* HAS BEE

BEFORE W

SILK SPECTRE
DARWYN COOKE / AMANDA CONNER

"WELL, WISHES DO COME TRUE, BECAUSE *SILK SPECTRE* IS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED."
—AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

MINUTEMEN
DARWYN COOKE

"DARWYN COOKE HAS CERTAINLY DELIVERED. *MINUTEMEN* IS A GORGEOUSLY CRAFTED COMIC BOOK."
—IGN

OZYMANDIAS
LEN WEIN / JAE LEE

"JAE LEE'S ARTWORK MAKES *OZYMANDIAS* THE MOST VISUALLY DISTINCT OF THE *BEFORE WATCHMEN* TITLES."
—THE ONION / A.V. CLUB

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BRIAN AZZARELL

"(
THE READER E
IN EDDIE,
DISGU

DC COMICS™

READ ALL 7 LIMITED SERIES WRITTEN &

N AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS."
—*MTV GEEK*

/ATCHMEN®

DIAN
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OMEDIAN LETS
BE INTERESTED
RATHER THAN
STED BY HIM."
—*IGN*

RORSCHACH
BRIAN AZZARELLO / LEE BERMEJO

"RORSCHACH IS A DARKLY GRITTY AND TERRIFICALLY EDGY READ."
—*FANGORIA*

NITE OWL
J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI / ANDY & JOE KUBERT

"A MAGNIFICENT ADDITION TO THE WATCHMEN UNIVERSE THAT ADDS TREMENDOUS DEPTH TO ONE OF IT'S BEST CHARACTERS."
—*COMIC VINE*

DR. MANHATTAN
J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI / ADAM HUGHES

"WHAT JMS HAS CRAFTED IS QUITE SIMPLY A GREAT SCI-FI PIECE OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES."
—*AIN'T IT COOL NEWS*

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book does for the ocean," Sturges said. "We've got mermaids! Pirates! A kraken! Sirens! All wrapped up in fast-past coming-of-age story, filled with treachery, high adventure, and very probably some sharks. (And maybe even a little romance for good measure.) In short: if it's in a fairy tale or legend, and it's wet, we've got it."

•*Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning*, masters of cosmic comics, are relaunching ***Battlestar Galactica*** in 2013. "The original series of ***Battlestar Galactica*** was like catnip to my younger self; more than filling my rabid craving for spaceships, laser weapons, robots and alien invasions!" Lanning said. "So imagine the thrill and excitement to be given the chance to develop something in the ***Battlestar Galactica*** universe.. With this new series from Dynamite, Dan and I are hoping we can add to the established canon of continuity with our own take on the classic series..."

•*Tom Sniegoski* is writing the new ***Vampirella Strikes*** series, which will feature covers by *Michael Turner, David Finch, Milo Manara,* and series artist *Johnny D.*

•*Keith Champagne & Jose Luis* present a bionic battle royale in ***The Bionic Man Vs. The Bionic Woman,*** which begins with a search for a seemingly bionic serial killer. ""Bionic fans have asked for ***The Bionic Man vs. The Bionic Woman*** from the get-go," publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "But we wanted to wait till we shipped over a years worth of Bionic Man's before releasing this."

"Growing up a huge fan of Steve Austin and now having such a strong admiration for the work *Kevin Smith* and *Phil Hester* have done to redefine the characters, I almost have to pinch myself that not only do I get to play in this world, but I get to tell *the* Steve Austin/Jamie Sommers story I've carried with me all these years," Champagne said.

•Dynamite is launching a Crime Line in 2013; the first offerings will be ***Red Team*** by *Garth Ennis & Craig Cermak* and an as-yet-untitled series written by *Andy Diggle.*

Ennis explained that "***Red Team*** is made up of four highly motivated and intelligent NYPD plain clothes officers... Trouble is, people as smart as these four will eventually draw their own conclusions about how the job might best be done, especially when they're faced with one frustration too many. That's what leads them down a rather drastic path, and that's when things start going badly wrong—or, depending on your point of view, badly right."

Diggle offered fewer details on his series, but his enthusiasm was evident. "It's not every day that a publisher offers you the chance to create a whole new world from scratch, and I'm having fun cooking up something dark, funny, violent and twisted for Dynamite," Diggle said. He went on to describe his new project as "hard-hitting genre fiction with a twist, for readers who don't like having their intelligence insulted."

•*Mark Waid* is writing Dynamite's ***Green Hornet*** relaunch in 2013. "It should come as little surprise that I have an affinity for all costumed crimefighters—no matter if their adventures are 'period pieces' or not," Waid said. "Heroism is heroism regardless of whatever year's on the calendar.

"With this ***Green Hornet*** project, which I've been percolating on for more than ten years, I'm able to meld my love of the Hornet's legacy with a little bit of ***Citizen Kane*** and a lot of ***Lawrence of Arabia*** to tell a story never before told—the dark years of the Hornet's later career and the one mistake he makes that nearly costs him everything."

•*Joshua Hale Fialkov* is writing the new series ***The Devilers.*** "We've been developing ***The Devilers*** for quite a bit of time," *Nick Barrucci* said, "and needed the right voice. Joshua is the going to shine on this series." The first issue features a cover by *Marc Silvestri.*

•*Brian Buccellato* has signed on to write ***The Black Bat,*** a series featuring the classic pulp hero who is playing a prominent role in Dynamite's pulp crossover adventure series ***Masks.*** ""I'm really excited to have the opportunity to put my stamp on classic character whose origin dates back to the time of such greats as The Shadow, The Phantom, and The Green Hornet," Buccellato said.

IDW

•IDW has announced a new ***Kill Shakespeare*** miniseries, ***The Tide of Blood,*** by co-creators *Anthony Del Col & Conor McCreery* and artist *Andy Belanger.* The five-part series wil follow Hamlet, Juliet, Othello, and Romeo as they face their biggest threat—Prospero, a rogue wizard who plans to destroy all of creation.

•IDW has revealed that the first issue of ***My Little Pony*** generated orders of more than 90,000 copies, making it perhaps the best-selling all-ages comics of the century this far.

•IDW's January crossover event centers around ***Mars Attacks,*** with the Martians moving on a number of other IDW titles, including ***Popeye, KISS, The Real Ghostbusters, Transformers,*** and ***Zombies Vs. Robots.*** Variant covers will pits the Martians against such heroes as Judge Dredd, Madman, Spike, Rog=2000, and Opus.

•***THUNDER Agents*** has found a new home at IDW; look for news regarding creators in the next few weeks.

•*Fred Van Lente & Steve Kirghiz* are helming IDW's ***GI Joe*** relaunch, which kicks off in February; ***GI Joe: Secret Missions*** by *Chuck Dixon & Paul Gulacy* follows in March, with ***The Cobra Files*** following in April.

•***Dr. Who:Prisoners of Time*** is a twelve issue series that will feature all eleven doctors in celebration of the franchise's fiftieth anniversary.

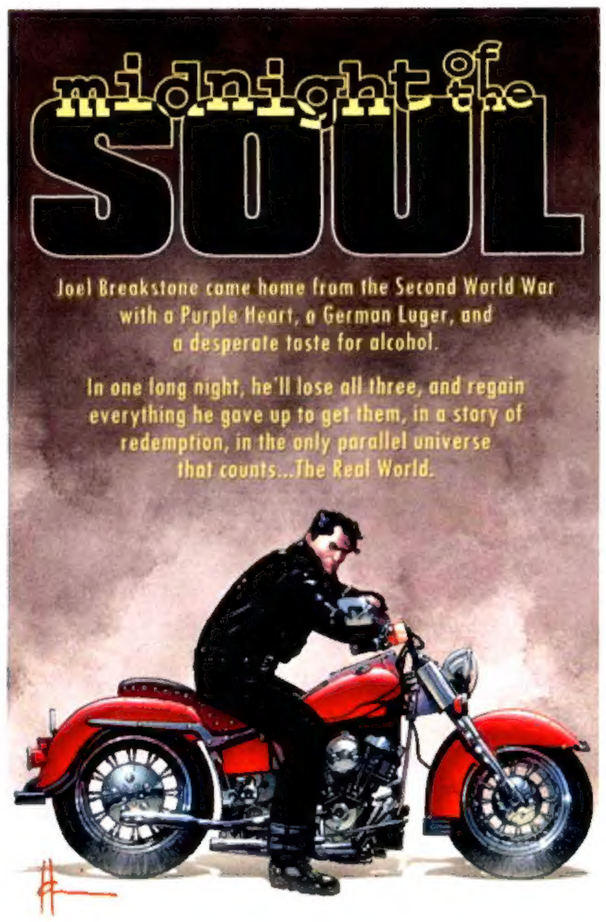
•*Mike Johnson & David Lessons* are producing ***Star Trek: Countdown to Darkness,*** a four issue prequel to 2013's new ***Star Trek*** film.

•***The High Way*** is the first of three new *John Byrne* titles slated to debut in 2013.

Image

•*Andy Diggle* will write the third arc of the *Robert Kirkman*-created ***Thief of Thieves*** (a perfect complement to his upcoming crime book for Dynamite's new crime line?).

•*Matt Fraction & Chip Zdarsky* are working on a new project, ***Sex Criminals,*** for 2013. Fraction is also collaborating with *Howard Chaykin* on another Image project, ***Satellite Sam.***


midnight of the SOUL
Joel Breakstone came home from the Second World War with a Purple Heart, a German Luger, and a desperate taste for alcohol.
In one long night, he'll lose all three, and regain everything he gave up to get them, in a story of redemption, in the only parallel universe that counts...The Real World.

•*Howard Chaykin's* next Image solo project after ***Black Kiss II*** will be ***Midnight of the Soul.***

•*Kieron Gillen & Ryan Kelly* chronicle the struggle of slaves on the run from the Spartans in their new series ***Three.***

•*Andy Diggle & Jock* bring ***Snapshot*** to Image; it tells the story of a comic book fan who discovers a hitman's phone filled with gory photos of his victims. "The hit man wants his phone back," Diggle said, "and I'm not going to spoil the twist that happens midway through the first issue."

•*Ales Kot* has two new Image projects in the works: ***Zero*** and ***The Surface.***

•*Jim McCann & Janet Lee* are reuniting on a new project, ***Lost Vegas,*** which focuses on a futuristic gambler who finally earns enough money to leave the planet.

•*James Asmus* is working on ***The End Times of Bram and Ben.*** "If you've always wondered if your friends would survive a war between heaven and hell," Asmus said, "this is where you find out."

•Screenwriter *Ken Kristenson* launches ***Todd: The Ugliest Kid in the World*** in January.

•*Jonathan Hickman* spotlights a quartet of psychiatrists who begin messing with their patients just for fun in ***Feel Better Now.***

•*Jonathan Hickman* joins with *Nick Dragotta* for ***East of West,*** a grim tale that puts the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse on the trial of the President of the United States.

•*Paul Pope* is working on several new projects for Image, including ***One Horse Trick.***

Legendary

•*Grant Morrison* will be writing a new creator-owned six-issue miniseries, ***Annihilator,*** which is described as a "devil's deal story, a horror story, and a science-fiction story." It focuses on a screenwriter with a brain tumor who seemingly is confronted by his lead character, who warns him of imminent global disaster. But is he real, or a tumor-induced hallucination?

•*Guillermo Del Toro's* upcoming film ***Pacific Rim*** is being adapted as a graphic novel written by *Travis Beacham,* the first screenwriter of the movie. "We're doing a graphic novel of the early stages of the story of ***Pacific Rim,***" Schreck said.

"The idea was *not* to do an adaptation of the movie," Del Toro added, "because with very few exceptions they are pretty sucky."

Marvel

•*Dan Slott* said that readers were going to find some very major surprises awaiting them in the pages of January's new series ***Superior Spider-Man.*** For one thing, Spider-Man and Mary Jane

THE STORY ON WHY KRAVEN WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON JUST CAME IN.
HE HELPED LOCATE A RARE PLANT IN A LOST JUNGLE...
DAILY BUGLE
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 10-18

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are getting back together... however, the Spider-Man in question is *not* Peter Parker! This is a different Spider-Man—more serious, darker, and most definitely *not* the "friendly neighborhood Spider-Man" readers have come to know. The series by *Dan Slott, Ryan Stegman, Humberto Ramos, & Giuseppe Camuncoli* (one writer, a rotating trio of artists) will pick up where ***Amazing Spider-Man #700*** leaves off (with something very bad happening to Peter Parker).

•*Brian Bendis & Steve McNiven* relaunch ***Guardians of the Galaxy*** in 2013, as Marvel gets in front of the impending excitement as the ***Guardians of the Galaxy*** film gets closer to release. The big surprise, though, is the news that Iron Man will join Starlord, Rocket Raccoon, Drax, Groot, and Gamora as a part of the team. Their job? "To tackle the threats to big for the Avengers." ***Guardians*** launches with a Point One issue in February, leading into the first issue in March.

•***Nova*** returns in 2013 as well, with *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness* doing the honors. This will be the Sam Alexander character as Nova, since Richard Rider is dead.

•*Scott Gimple & Mark Texeira* bring back Frank Castle for five weeks in ***Punisher: Nightmare***.

•Marvel announced three more ***Season One*** original graphic novels for 2013 release: ***Iron Man Season One*** by *Howard Chaykin & Gerard Parek,* ***Wolverine Season One*** by *Ben Acker, Ben Blacker, & Salvador Espin,* and ***Thor Season One*** by *Matt Sturges & Pepe Larraz.*

•*Kieron Gillen & Jamie McKelvie* are helming the Marvel Now relaunch of ***Young Avengers*** in January. As you might expect, there are surprises in the lineup: Kid Loki will be a part of the team, along with Miss America Chavez, Wiccan, Hulkling, Hawkeye (Kate), and Marvel Boy.

•Deadpool takes on a number of classic literary characters, including Dracula, Sherlock Holmes, and Moby Dick, in the pages of ***Deadpool Killustrated,*** an offbeat new project from *Cullen Bunn & Matteo Lolli.*

•*Frank Cho* launches ***Savage Wolverine*** in January;

editor *Jeanine Schaefer* describes the series as "Wolverine/Indiana Jones in the Savage Land with Shanna the She-Devil, mutant apes, and crazy guest stars—and Schaefer said that the book will change something fundamental in the Marvel Universe, although she wouldn't say specifically what that might be.

•*Peter David* will launch "The Hell on Earth War," a storyline he's been teasing for fifteen years, in ***X-Factor #250.*** "All of the various hell lords that are wandering around the Marvel Universe have been waiting for the seven billionth human to be born on Earth," leading to a faceoff of all the hell lords in a struggle to become the undisputed ruler of the underworld.

•*David Marquez* will join the ***All-New X-Men*** team as he has been tapped to illustrate *Brian Bendis'* second story arc. He will alternate with artist *Stuart Immonen,* who will return for the third storyline.

•Marvel is publishing a massive 730-page ***Wolverine: The Adamantium Collection*** slipcased hardcover in June 2013; the book—which will include ***Origin, Wolverine*** by *Chris Claremont & Frank Miller,* ***Weapon X,*** and more—will measure a massive 11.5" x 15.5", making it almost the same size as those IDW ***Artist Editions...***

•*Nick Spencer, Luke Ross, & Matthew Wilson* relaunch ***The Secret Avengers*** in 2013. The line-up will include a number of characters very familiar to viewers of a certain billion-dollar film: Nick Fury (Jr.), Agent Coulson, Maria Hill, Hawkeye, and the Black Widow, along with a number of other members working with the team as needed.

•And speaking of Agent Coulson: *Joss Whedon* has confirmed that the character as played by *Clark Gregg* will be headline the ***SHIELD*** television series.

Oni

•Cullen Bunn & Joelle Jones are launching a Viking adventure of magic and menace in ***Helheim,*** a new series launching in March.

•*Cullen Bunn, Brian Hurtt, & Brian Churilla* are working on a ***Sixth Gun*** spinoff series, ***The Sixth Gun: Sons of the Gun,*** which concerns the horsemen of General Hume.

•*Joe Harris & Adam Pollina* are the creators of ***Wars in Toyland,*** which finds the Babes in Toyland forced to deal with a teddy bear dictator.

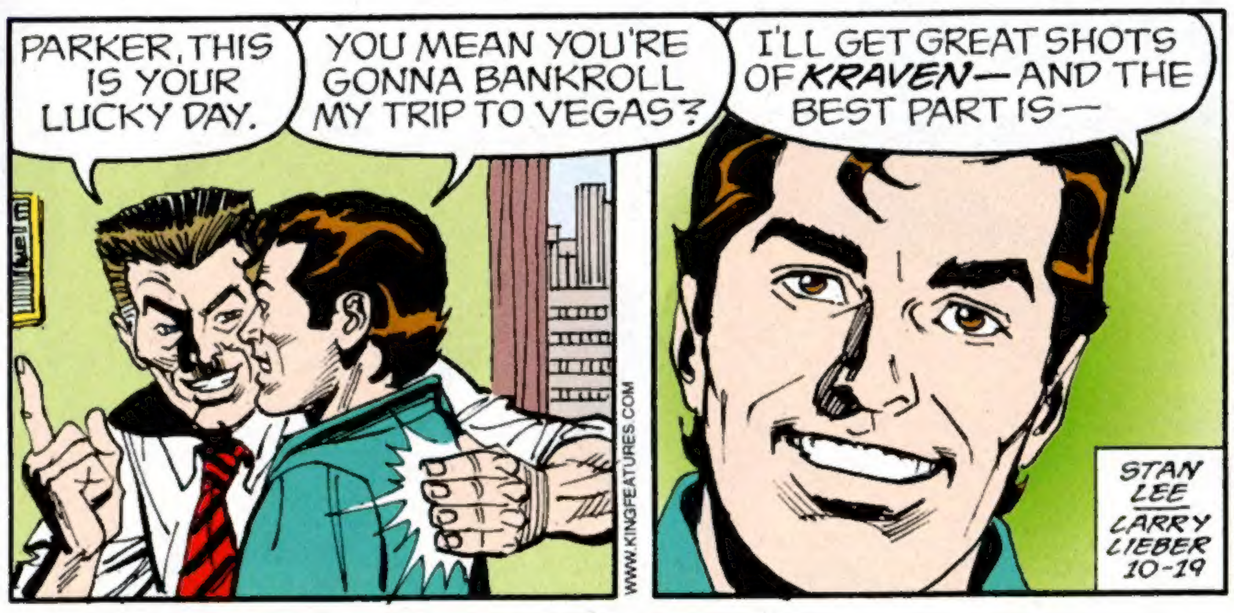
Valiant

•"Bloodshot: Harbinger Hunter." That's the title of the story that kicks off in ***Bloodshot #7.*** The story will tie together two of Valiant's most popular titles in a tale that writer *Duane Swierczynski* said would reveal Bloodshot's true purpose in the Valiant Universe.

•***X-O Manowar*** will launch "Planet Death" with a prelude in ***X-O #s 9 & 10,*** featuring art by *Trevor Hairsine.* This will lead into the story arc's launch in #11, which will also mark *Cary Nord's* return to the book.

•*Joshua Dysart & Mico Suayan* are teaming up for February's ***Harbinger #0,*** a series that ventures into the beginnings of ***Harbinger,*** focusing on Toyo Harada's experiences in a refugee camp outside of Hiroshima, where he first discovers his powers. "We'll explore the roots of Harada's decision that he needed to control the world through financial power," Dysart said. This story will foreshadow some of Valiant's plans for the summer of 2013.

•***Bloodshot #7*** is a standalone flashback issue illustrated by *Matthew Clark;* the story will detail Bloodshot's past as a "Harbinger hunter" in the Valiant Universe.


PARKER, THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA BANKROLL MY TRIP TO VEGAS?
I'LL GET GREAT SHOTS OF KRAVEN—AND THE BEST PART IS—
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LARRY LIEBER
10-19
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I'M REALLY GONNA MISS YOU, TIGER.
SORRY YOU'VE GOTTA STAY BECAUSE OF YOUR PLAY.
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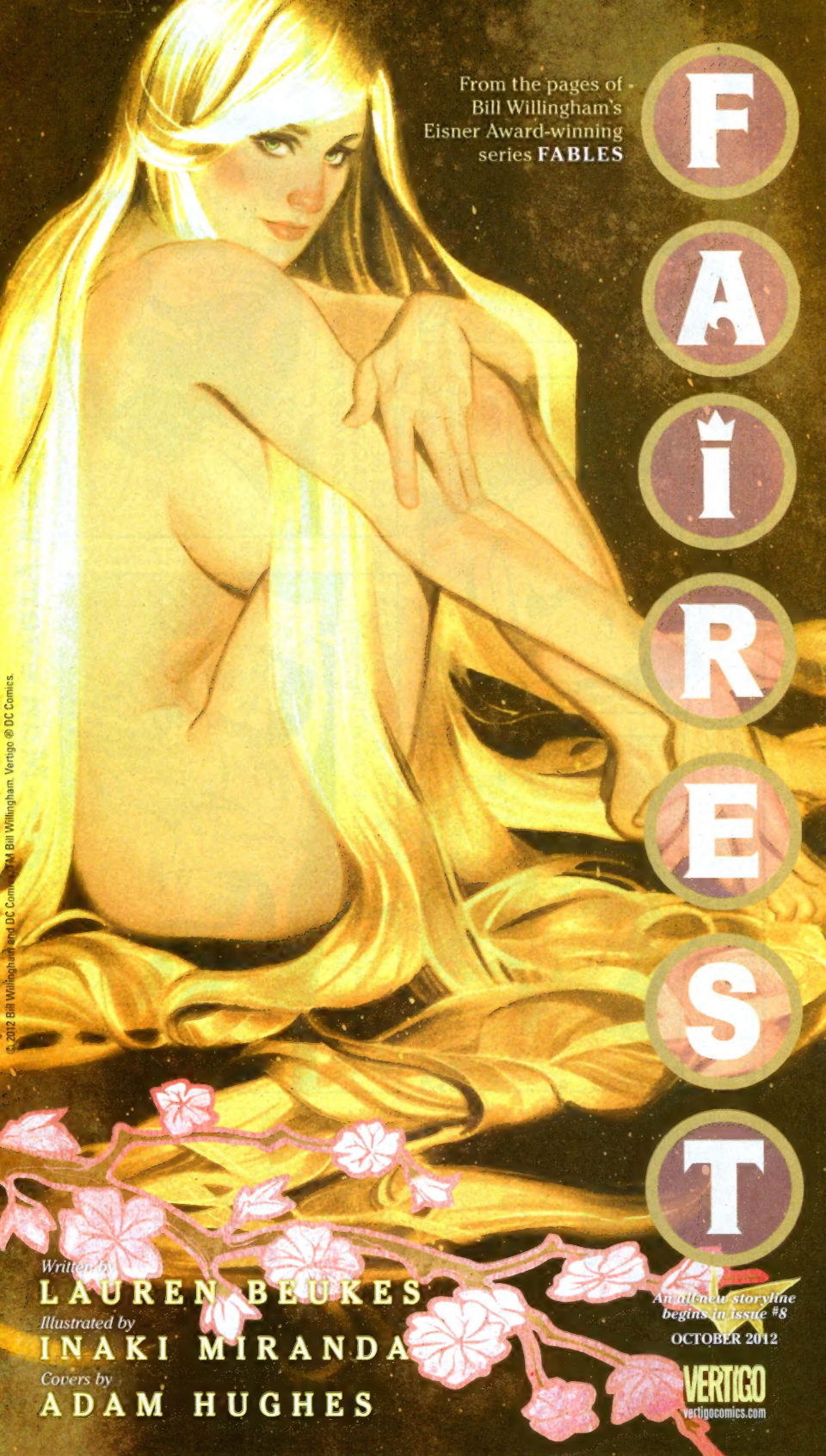

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